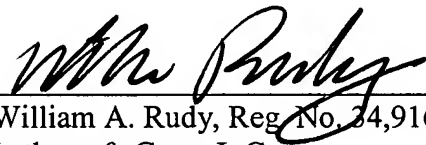


## REMARKS

This communication is responsive to the Examiner's Office Action mailed September 25, 2003. In that action, the Examiner ruled that Claims 1-30, drawn to a method for treating a liquid stream with a solid absorbent, are distinct from Claim 31, which is drawn to a purification facility. Applicant hereby elects Group I, Claims 1-30, and hereby cancels Claim 31 without prejudice to its patentability.

Applicant believes that no fees are necessary. But if fees are required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account number 12-0600. Please call the undersigned with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



William A. Rudy, Reg. No. 34,916  
Lathrop & Gage, L.C.  
2345 Grand Boulevard, Suite 2400  
Kansas City, Missouri 64108  
Telephone: (816) 460-5819  
Facsimile: (816) 292-2001